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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|--|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/073,825 | 05/07/1998 | SUSUMU TSUJIMOTO | 0004634P | 1276 |
| 27557 | 7590 | 01/06/2005 | EXAMINER | |
| BLANK ROME LLP 600 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20037 | | | PETERSON, KENNETH E | |
| | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER | |
| | | 3724 | | |

DATE MAILED: 01/06/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| | 09/073,825 | TSUJIMOTO, SUSUMU | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Kenneth E Peterson | 3724 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 November 2004.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 15 and 17-20 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) 18-20 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 15 and 17 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____.

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Armstrong et al. '280, who shows a saw in figure 3 having all of the recited limitations including a straight tooth and four alternatingly offset teeth (e.g. S,L1,R1,L2,R2), a collinear bend line, inline cutting tips, different pitches, and gullets lower than the bend line. As seen in figure 3, the teeth all have the same running length at the bend line and decreasing pitch lengths from S to R2.

3. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Clark '967, who shows a saw in figure 3 having all of the recited limitations including a straight tooth and four alternatingly offset teeth (e.g. 12,13,14,15,16,17,18), a collinear bend line (see figure 4), inline cutting tips (see figure 4), different pitches, and gullets lower than the bend line (see figure 4). Note that Applicant's claims do not recite that *all* gullet bottoms must be lower than the bending line. As seen in figure 2, the teeth all have the same running length at the bend line. As discussed on lines 21-38 of column 2, the pitches decrease from straight tooth 12 to tooth 15.

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Clark '967 or Armstrong et al. '280.

If it is argued that the bending lines of Clark's or Armstrong's teeth are not *exactly* the same length, or that the bending lines of each tooth are not *exactly* collinear, then Examiner notes that there is no criticality in the length and position of the bending lines being *exactly* the same for each tooth, nor is there detriment if the bending lines are of *slightly* different length or *slightly* non-collinear. The use of bending lines of the *exact* same length and *exactly* collinear, compared to bending lines of *slightly* varying lengths and *slightly* non-collinear solves no stated problem and would have been an obvious matter of design choice within the skill of the art. In re Kuhle, 188 USPQ 7.

Looking at Armstrong's figure 3 it appears that the pitch decreases from tooth to tooth. However, Armstrong does not explicitly say as much. If it were interpreted that the pitch does not vary from tooth to tooth, then Examiner takes Official Notice that this is old and well known. Examples of such are Clark '967, Senegas, Kullmann et al. and Dryden. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have made the Armstrong's pitch vary from tooth to tooth, as is well known and taught by Clark '967, Senegas, Kullmann et al. and Dryden, in order to best dampen vibration of the blade and/or avoid the clogging of the gullet by particles of a particular size.

6. Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over either of Clark '967 or Armstrong et al. '280, as set forth in either the 102 or 103 rejection above.

The gullet bottoms of Armstrong and Clark are rounded. However, Examiner takes Official Notice that it is well known for gullet bottoms to be flat with curves rising up to meet the teeth on either side. Examples of such are Kolesh and Hayden, Sr.'571. The radius of curvature of each curve appears to be similar if not the same. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have modified either Clark or Armstrong by making the gullet bottom flat, since both round and flat gullet bottoms are art-recognized equivalents that perform the same function of separating the teeth. See MPEP 2144.06.

7. Applicant's arguments have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant has added new limitations to the claims, but these limitations already existed in the employed references.

8. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

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extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ken Peterson whose telephone number is 571-272-4512. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Thursday between 7am and 5pm.

In lieu of mailing, it is encouraged that all formal responses be faxed to 703-872-9306. If attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Allan Shoap can be reached on 571-272-4514.

kp
January 4, 2005



KENNETH E. PETERSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER